

SYSTEM FOR CONFIGURATION OF DYNAMIC COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTS USING A VISUAL INTERFACE

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application, entitled "Dynamic
Computing Environment Using Allocateable Resources" Serial No. 60/228105 and filed
on August 24, 2000. This application is also related patent application Serial No.
09/663,252, ^{still pending,} entitled "User Interface for Dynamic Computing Environment Using
Allocateable Resources, filed September 15, 2000. Both applications and their
10 disclosures are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to digital processing, and more
specifically to an interactive system for allowing allocation of resources such as digital
15 processors, networks and software to create a software configured, networked
arrangement of processors and processes.

Today, computers are increasingly being used in almost every area of
commerce, education, entertainment and productivity. With the growing popularity of the
Internet, corporate and campus intranets, home networking and other networks, the trend
20 is to use multiple computers, or processing platforms, to perform tasks and provide
services. The networked processors approach is in contrast to traditional approaches of
running a single application as a stand-alone application on a single computer.

One approach to networked processing is a "client-server" model whereby
a server computer on the Internet is used to transfer information to a client computer.
25 Typically, the client computer is located at an end user's location, such as a personal
computer in a user's home. This allows large amounts of information to be stored in, and
accessed from, the server computer by many client computers. The client computers can
access the server computer simultaneously. Another approach allows a user to obtain
portions of executable programs from the server to operate an application program in
30 functional "pieces" or components, on the client computer. For example, a user can run a
word-processing program in a client-server mode where the server provides only those
portions of the word-processing software to the user's computer on an as-needed basis.

Yet another model is the application service provider (ASP) model. This
removes the application still further from the end-user and can involve more processors,